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STREET HYPE

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Thomas takes Charged

Richard Thomas is sworn in as mayor of Mount Vernon by Governor David Paterson as his wife Cherish holds the bible Jan. 1, 2016 at Mount Vernon High School. *Turn to page 5 for full story*

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William Caruth, 61

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EDITORIAL

We must get out the votes in 2016

The year 2016 will be a very politically active period with the several elections, including the presidential contest, set for November 8.

Several seats in the Senate, the governorships of 12 of the 50 U.S. states and two U.S. territories are up for grabs.

The incumbent president, Democrat Barack Obama, is ineligible to be elected to a third term because of term limits established by the 22nd Amendment to constitution.

More than a dozen GOP candidates, including the rude and crude, but popular New York billionaire Donald Trump, are currently slugging it out for the right to represent the Republican Party.

On the Democratic side, Hillary Clinton tops the polls but her feisty contender Bernie Sanders is nipping at her heels. Notwithstanding, we are months away and things seem to change with every 24-hour news cycle.

Politics in American is never static. As one pundit observes, "Similar to the value system of certain presidential candidates, it's in a never-ending state of constant evolution."

However, if we want to participate in the political process and provide leadership at the city, state and federal levels, voting on elections day should be our primary focus. African Americans don't usually vote in large numbers.

They, however, created history in 2012 when they voted at higher rates than whites, lifting Democrat Barack Obama to victory amid voter apathy, particularly among young people.

Non-the-less, despite population growth in the United States, the number of white voters declined for the first time since 1996.

It should also be noted that Blacks were the only race or ethnic group to show an increase in voter turnout in November 2014,

patrick@streethype.net

most notably in the Midwestern and Southeastern states, the Census Bureau said.

Overall, voter turnout has been described as abysmally low in most midterm elections. In 43 states for example, less than half the eligible population bothered to vote, and no state has broken 60 percent during the past decades. In fact, in the three largest states - California, Texas and New York - less than a third of the eligible population voted. New York's turnout was a shameful 28.8 percent, the fourth lowest in the country, despite three statewide races (including the governor) and 27 House races. The national turnout was 36.3 percent; only the 1942 federal election had a lower participation rate at 33.9 percent.

So why the low voter turnout in recent election cycles? The reasons are apathy, anger and frustration at the relentlessly negative tone of campaigns.

However, neither the Republicans nor the Democrats are giving voters an affirmative reason to show up at the polls, but it should not stop us from getting out the votes in 2016.

Don't vote for the party. Vote based on the issues.

The opinions expressed in this newspaper, except for the above, do not necessarily reflect the views of Street Hype Newspaper and its publishers. Please send your comments and or suggestions to editor@streethypenewspaper.com. Responses should be no longer than 400 words. Not all articles will be published.

People Are Talking...!

US Immigration Agents Are Deporting Families

By Meredith Hoffman
www.news.vice.com

Mariaria Hernandez and her two sons were asleep early Saturday morning in her parents' Dallas home when several immigration agents banged on the door. Her father opened it, confused, and the agents burst inside.

"They entered all the rooms and woke up my kids, saying they had a deportation order," Hernandez, 33, told VICE News in Spanish. "We were very surprised — I was almost naked when they entered. We were all crying."

As her dad stood weeping, the agents took Hernandez and her six- and nine-year-old sons into custody and drove them first to an Immigration and Customs Enforcement office and then to a detention center in South Texas. This week officials will fly the family back to El Salvador, from which they fled gang violence in May 2014.

"They told us that in two days they'll send us to our country," Hernandez said Monday in a phone interview from the South Texas Residential Center in Dilley, Texas. "It's the worst thing that could happen. We all have threats on our lives."

The Hernandezes are among 121 Central American facing imminent deportation, after ICE rounded them up this weekend in a national enforcement action — the first of its kind to target minors. Officials apprehended women and children who had crossed the border since May 2014 and who were

About 200 advocates for immigration reform marched through downtown Long Beach holding signs and singing songs. The group made stops outside of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the office of Congressman Alan Lowenthal, and Long Beach City Hall, as members of the media documented the activity.

denied asylum, according to an ICE spokesperson.

The raids are a response to the continued increase of Central American border crossings in recent months and are intended to combat the surge and to enforce immigration law, DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson explained in a press statement.

"As I have said repeatedly, our borders are not open to illegal migration," Johnson said. "If you come here illegally, we will send you back consistent with our laws and values."

Johnson declared that recent border crossers who have entered the US illegally since May 2014 are an enforcement priority, along with convicted criminals and threats to public safety.

"Attempting to enter the US unlawfully as a family unit does not protect individuals from being subject to the immigration laws of this country," said an unnamed DHS official on background. "The repatriation of individuals with final orders of removal — including families and unaccompanied minors — to their home countries is part of our broader ongoing effort to address the recent surge of families and individuals arriving at our southern border."

The raids are designed as a deterrent to discourage more Central American border crossers, immigration analysts told VICE News, along the lines of DHS's use of family immigrant detention.

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NEWS

‘Time for competence’

New Mayor says he will tackle crime, Quality of life in Mt. Vernon

By Kimmy Blair
Street Hype Writer

Mt. Vernon’s new mayor Richard Thomas said making the city safe and improving quality of life in the city will be his priority.

Thomas, 33, a community activist and former councilman, outlined his agenda after taking oath of office at Mount Vernon High School on January 1 as the city’s new mayor.

The Democrat, is the youngest mayor in the city’s history and the 26th mayor of Mount Vernon, He replaces long-time city leader Ernie Davis. "The mission of Mount Vernon is to win the future," he said.

Thomas said his agenda includes addressing high taxes, crime, and the shuttered Memorial Field. His two biggest priorities are to make the streets safer and improve quality of life in the city.

"Together we'll move mountains," Thomas told the people. "Now more than ever we need other. We will make Mount Vernon great again."

His former boss, New York State Governor, David Paterson, swore in Thomas. He told the over 2,000 packed auditorium, that it was time to shift the focus of city politics.

"We've had crony-ism, we've had charisma. Now it's time for competence," he noted. He said City Hall needs to be infused with discipline and hard work, and that he'll be consolidating functions and roles as his team manages the city "like a small business."

Mt. Vernon’s new mayor Richard Thomas shares a light moment with his wife Cherish at his inauguration ceremony held on January 1 in the City at Mount Vernon High School.

Governor Paterson said Thomas’ passion to serve the city has been evident throughout his political career.

“He never forgot where he came from. He has a drive to make his city great,” he observed.

This sentiment was echoed by several of the other speakers at the inauguration.

“He’s a real Mount Vernon guy,” said comedian and fellow Mount Vernon native J.B. Smoove. “He has a real plan to make things better. He loves this city.”

City council members Lisa Copeland and Andrew Wallace offered words of support, as did Congressman Eliot Engel, state Sen. Jeffrey Klein, Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino and Sen. Chuck Schumer.

Brooklyn Serial Rapist Sentenced to 100 Years to Life

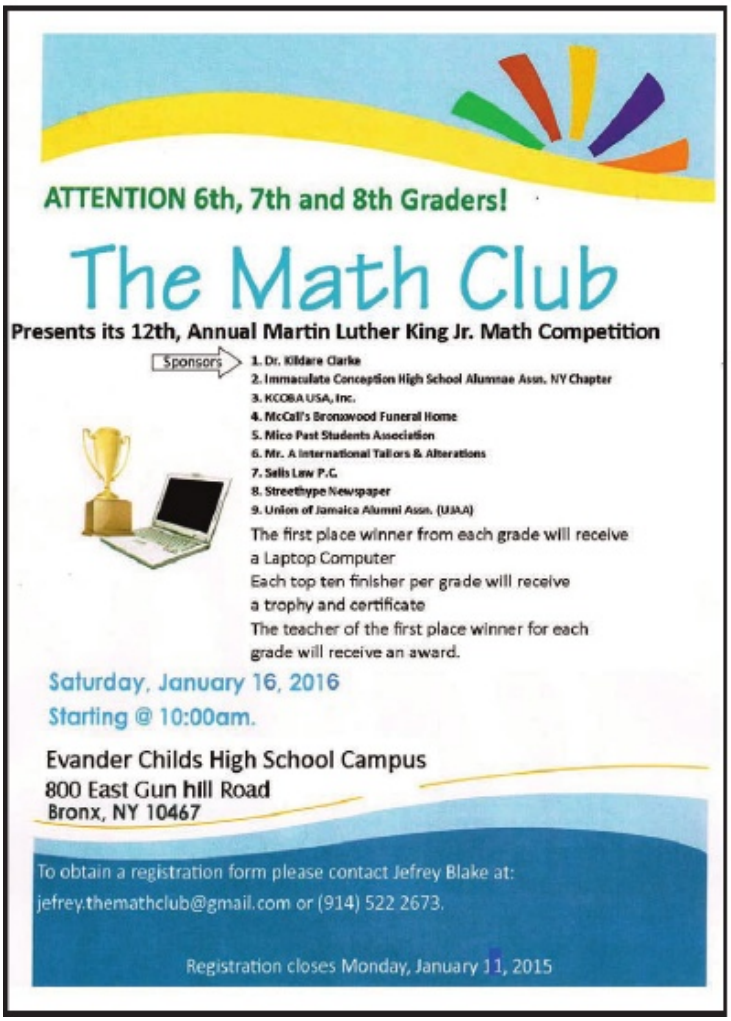
BROOKLYN:

A 26-year-old Brooklyn serial rapist has been sentenced to 100 years to life in prison for committing four rapes within a one-week period, including one of a 15-year-old girl.

Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice Vincent Del Giudice recently sentenced Dexter Bell of Crown Heights, Brooklyn, to 100 years to life in prison. The defendant was convicted on Nov. 9, 2015, of six counts of predatory sexual assault following a jury trial.

According to trial testimony, on April 4, 2013, at approximately 8 p.m., in the vicinity of Albany Avenue and Fenimore Street in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, the defendant began following the first victim, a 25-year-old woman, after she exited a B12 bus. After trying to talk to her, he grabbed her hand, pulled her into a rear alley, put his hands around her neck, threatened to kill her and punched her in the face before raping her. The victim went home and later went to the hospital and a rape kit was collected and police were notified.

On April 8, 2013, at approximately 4 p.m., in the vicinity of Schenectady Avenue and Montgomery Street, in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, according to trial testimony, the defendant approached the second victim, a 21-year-old woman, and said “hello.” The defendant started talking to her and she recognized him from the neighborhood but told him she was heading to work.



NEWS

Dad Kills Daughter

Bronx dad charged grisly killing of his 5-months pregnant daughter

By Kimmy Blair
Street Hype Writer

The father of a pregnant woman who went missing for days in the Bronx, has been charged with her murder.

Police found the body of 39-year-old Andrea Caruth in a crawl space within the basement apartment of her Baychester home around 5 a.m. Wednesday Jan. 6.

William Caruth, 61 who lives in that basement apartment, is under arrest and charged with second-degree murder and manslaughter. The crawl space had previously been hallowed out, indicating a degree of planning, according to sources.

Andrea Caruth was five months pregnant and operated a daycare facility out of the Corsea Avenue home.

The Medical Examiner ruled the cause of death as ligature strangulation and blunt impacts to the head, with skull fractures and brain injuries. The manner of death is homicide.

Forensic crews hauled out lots of evidence, all wrapped in paper bags, after the grisly discovery.

According to authorities, William Caruth appeared to be having an ongoing dispute with his daughter over money, apparently stemming from a second mortgage taken on the house.

William Caruth, 61
charged with second-degree murder of her daughter

The woman's longtime boyfriend, who reported her missing, gave police permission to search the house, but nothing was found. Only when canines were brought in Tuesday did they detect possible remains. Wet residue spots were discovered in the basement apartment, and detectives noticed that a large garbage bag that was full on their last visit had been emptied and turned inside out. Wet residue that appeared to be blood was on the bag, police said.

Andrea Caruth, 39
Police found the body the basement of her Baychester home

Eventually, the crawl space was entered and the body found, partially covered by gravel and dirt. Officials said there was an obvious attempt made to obstruct the space with a plywood board.

A hammer was recovered at the scene, possibly used in the killing. When confronted with the forensic evidence and his access to the area where the body was located, officials tell Eyewitness News that the father requested a lawyer.

The boyfriend, who was interviewed by detectives for much of the day, is expected to be released.

Chase employees charged with stealing from elderly customers

Brooklyn -- Two personal bankers employed by J.P. Morgan Chase and two other defendants were arraigned Dec. 28, 2015 on an indictment in which they were charged with conspiracy and other charges for allegedly stealing approximately $400,000 from the bank accounts of 15 senior citizens and deceased account holders, who were Chase customers.

Brooklyn District Attorney Ken Thompson identified the defendants as Jonathan Francis, 27, of 75 Martense St. in Flatbush, Brooklyn, and Dion Allison, 30, of 146 LaRose Circle, Marietta, GA. They were both employed as personal bankers at Chase's Restoration Plaza branch at 1380 Fulton Street in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn.

Also charged are Kery Phillips, 40, of 135 Clarkson Ave. in Prospect-Lefferts Gardens, Brooklyn, and Gregory Desrameaux, 24, of 184 Clarkson Ave. in Prospect-Lefferts Gardens, who were not employed by Chase.

All of the defendants are named in a four-count indictment in which they are charged with fourth-degree conspiracy, second- and third-degree grand larceny and first-degree falsifying business records.

Allison was arrested Dec. 28 and arraigned before Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice Cassandra Mullen. He was ordered held on bail of $25,000 and to return to court on Feb. 10. Francis and Desrameaux were arraigned earlier this month before Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice Danny Chun. Bail was set at $25,000 for Francis and Desrameaux was released without bail. They were also ordered to return to court on Feb. 10. Phillips is still being sought by police. The defendants each face up to 15 years in prison if convicted.

The public is being urged to report suspected Social Security fraud to the Social Security Fraud Hotline at http://oig.ssa.gov/report or (800) 269-0271.

Man charged with beating girlfriend to death

Queens -- A 24-year-old man has been charged with the brutal slaying of his 19-year-old girlfriend whose bruised and battered body was found in their Queens home on New Year's Day.

The suspect, Fabian Maliza, 24, of 86th St. in the Woodhaven section of Queens, has been charged with second-degree murder. He faces up to 25 years to life in prison.

According to the criminal complaint, Maliza allegedly punched the victim, Joceline Abigail Romo, in the face, head and body repeatedly on Jan. 1. The defendant is alleged to have applied pressure to the 19-year-old woman's neck, which caused her to stop breathing and her heart to stop beating. Romo's lifeless body was found face- down in her bed just before 11 p.m. that night.

Detectives assigned to the New York City Police Department's Queens South Homicide Squad and the 102nd Precinct conducted the investigation.

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NEWS OF THE WORLD

Jamaica homicides jump 20%

highest level in 5 years

KINGSTON, Jamaica:

Violent rivalries among Jamaica's lottery scam rings have helped drive the Caribbean island's homicide rate to the highest level in five years, according to police.

The Jamaica Constabulary Force said the country had at least 1,192 slaying in 2015, a roughly 20 percent increase from the previous year. There were 1,005 killings in 2014, the lowest annual total since 2003 in this country that has long struggled with violent crime.

Jamaica had about 45 killings per 100,000 people in 2015, keeping it ranked among the most violent countries in the world. In recent years, the U.N. listed the island as having the world's sixth worst homicide rate. The World Bank ranked Jamaica in the top five in 2013.

By comparison, Chicago, which has roughly the same population as Jamaica at 2.7 million, had 468 killings in 2015.

Last year's total is a long way from National Security Minister Peter Bunting's goal of reducing the annual homicide numbers to 320 killings by 2017. He first stated this goal shortly after starting as national security minister in early 2012.

Peter Bunting
Jamaican National Security

Bunting, who had called the reduction in 2014 a breakthrough in the fight against crime, said officials "will not be deterred or daunted by this setback."

Authorities attribute the rise in killings to clashes among lottery scam rings fighting over money and "lead lists" containing identity information about targets living abroad, mostly in the United States. Fighting between gangs has long been blamed for the majority of Jamaica's homicides.

US$467 laundered in Trinidad & Tobago

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad:

More than three billion dollars (US$467 million) were laundered in Trinidad and Tobago over the last four years, according to information reported to the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), Susan Francois, director of the unit, disclosed on Wednesday.

She said the sum was reported by financial institutions and businesses as the suspected receipts of criminal activity.

"This was not legal money, this was money that the financial institutions and businesses reasonably suspected came from crime," she said.

She noted that the huge amount, which only represented the sums reported, showed the attraction of crime "and that is why people take the risk, that is why they conduct criminal activity, that is why they commit crime, because of the huge profits which are generated."

Francois was speaking at the University of the Southern Caribbean (USC) in Maracas at the launch of the Money Laundering and Financial Crimes Institute in Trinidad and Tobago, a joint effort by the University of the Southern Caribbean and the Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business.

The two institutions have teamed up with the Florida-based Money Laundering and Financial Crimes Institute (MLFC) which itself is a joint venture between the St Thomas University and Compliance Aid, an international consulting firm specializing in anti-money laundering; countering the financing of terrorism and preventing financial crimes, Newsday reported.

Francois added that, while people consider money laundering as white collar crime, the three billion dollars that were reported came from violent crime, while white collar crime does not usually involve violence, or injury to the person.

Presidential runoff elections in Haiti set for January 24

PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti:

Following a working meeting on Tuesday with President Michel Martelly, Haiti's Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) has confirmed in a letter signed by its president, Pierre-Louis Opont, "that it is able to guarantee the organization of the second round of presidential and that of the partial legislative and local elections on Sunday, January 24, 2016."

Twenty-four hours earlier, Opont had informed Martelly that it was impossible to organize the elections for January 17 – the final date, he said, voting could be staged to guarantee the handover of power from one elected president to another in time to meet the constitutionally mandated February 7 deadline.

The CEP has now agreed to respect both constitutional dates, namely, January 11, 2016, for the return of Parliament and February 7 for the inauguration of the elected president.

Meanwhile, for the second time in two weeks, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Tuesday again voiced concern over the ongoing electoral process in Haiti, urging the authorities and all political actors to resolve outstanding issues as soon as possible.

Jovenel Moise from the governing party and former government executive Jude Celestin, the two top vote getters in the first round of presidential elections on 25 October, were set to face each other in a run-off on 27 December but that was postponed until further notice.

"The secretary-general recalls that Parliament has not functioned since January 2015," a statement issued by Ban's spokesperson said on Tuesday. "He underlines the importance of inaugurating the new legislature within the constitutional time frame to ensure the renewal of democratic institutions and consolidate political stability in Haiti."

New poverty threat to developing world

Washington DC:

The World Bank has warned of new threats to efforts to reduce poverty in the developing world.

In its twice-yearly assessment of global economic prospects, the bank forecasts only a modest increase in growth.

The report says that there has been an increase in risks to the global economy. The bank's chief economist suggests that China's economic slowdown is a potential danger.

But there are some relatively upbeat elements to this report. The World Bank does think that global economic growth will pick up this year.

It is forecast that the rich countries will gain some speed and the emerging economies will grow more rapidly than last year.

The World Bank says Jamaica's growth is expected to be 2.1% for the calendar year.

That follows the estimated 1.3% which the economy is thought to have grown last year.

Nine Cubans Rescued at Sea

MEXICO CITY:

Mexico's navy has rescued nine Cubans who were found by a Panamanian-flagged tanker while their makeshift boat was adrift on the Caribbean, authorities said Thursday. The seven men and two women were found by the Chem Venus ship on Tuesday, the navy said in a statement.

The navy released pictures of the Cubans coming down a ladder from the side of the tanker to a navy vessel some 51 km (32 miles) from the resort island of Isla Mujeres. The statement said they were in "good health."

The group was handed over to the National Migration Institute, which usually gives Cuban migrants a 20-day pass to continue onward with their journey when the Cuban Consulate does not recognize them as citizens.

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LEGAL AFFAIRS

Bronx gets first African-American woman District Attorney

On January 1, 2016, Associate Justice Darcel Denise Clark became the 13th District Attorney for Bronx County and the first African-American woman to hold the office in New York State.

Prior to her election, Ms. Clark served as an Associate Justice for the NYS Supreme Court Appellate Division, First Department, and as a Justice of the NYS Supreme Court, Bronx County as well as a Judge of the Criminal Court in Bronx and New York Counties, spending more than 16 years on the bench.

A native Bronxite who was raised in NYCHA's Soundview Houses, and is a product of the New York City public school system, District Attorney Clark graduated from Truman High School before receiving her Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Boston College, where she was the first recipient of the University's Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Scholarship.

D.A. Clark then attended the Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C., where she served as Class President for each of her three years in law school.

After earning her law degree at Howard, District Attorney Clark returned home in 1986 to begin her legal career at the Bronx District Attorney's Office as an Assistant District Attorney. After trying many cases as a prosecutor, including drug felonies, violent crimes and homicides, D.A. Clark served as a Supervising ADA in the Narcotics Bureau and eventually became the Deputy Chief of the Criminal Court Bureau. In 1999, she left the Office to accept her first judicial post.

Darcel Denise Clark
Bronx District Attorney

Having dedicated her life to public service, District Attorney Clark has devoted herself to the Bronx, not only as a native and resident of the borough, but also as someone who has worked to earn the public trust.

District Attorney Clark also serves on the Boston College Board of Trustees and has served in leadership positions in the National Association of Women Judges and the Black Bar Association of Bronx County.

The District Attorney is married to a NYPD Detective, Eaton "Ray" Davis.

New York Medical Marijuana Program Begins

New York's medical marijuana program finally begins Thursday, a year and a half after it was approved, but it won't be the landmark achievement its advocates dreamed of.

A dearth of marijuana vendors and producers, onerous restrictions on patients and requirements that doctors take a special class likely will cripple medical marijuana in the state, according to advocates.

New York's program "is definitely better than no program at all," Karen O'Keefe, director of state policies at the Marijuana Policy Project said.

"It's a shame that some politicians want to race to the bottom to enact the most restrictive -- meaning the worst -- medical marijuana law," O'Keefe said.

New York, the 23rd state to offer patients medical marijuana, will allow eight dispensaries to open on Thursday, based on the June 2014 medical marijuana law. Twelve more are set to open later this month -- a number advocates said is far too low.

"Twenty dispensaries in a state as large as New York is woefully insufficient," Americans for Safe Access policy director Mike Liszewski said. "States seem to have this fear of letting the genie out of the bottle."

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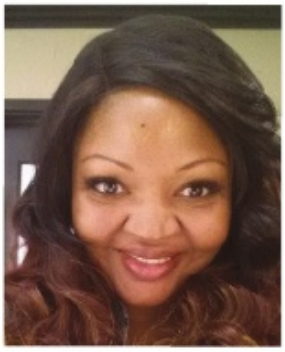

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SPORTS

Costly flirt - Gayle fined Aus$10,000

HOBART, Australia:

West Indies opener Chris Gayle has been slapped with a 10,000-dollar fine by the Melbourne Renegades for comments made to a female reporter during a live television interview in Australia.

The Renegades CEO Stuart Coventry disclosed the penalty at a press conference in Melbourne yesterday afternoon following the controversial incident in which Gayle openly flirted with Network TEN's Mel McLaughlin.

Gayle's comments to McLaughlin followed his explosive 41 for Renegades during a match of the Big Bash League (BBL) on Monday. "We had a look at some history and precedents established in the past, the circumstance that was in place this time, and we think that this is a one-off scenario," Coventry said.

"We looked at Chris' attitude over the last four or five weeks in the Big Bash and we think it has been outstanding. We've come up with a fine scenario."

The Jamaican cricketer has been severely criticised for his now heavily publicized comments in which he told McLaughlin: "I get to see your eyes for the first time, it's nice.

Chris Gayle
Slapped with a $10,000 fine

Hopefully we can win and go for a drink after. Don't blush baby." Coventry said that Gayle has been warned that a heavier penalty will be imposed in the event of a repeat behavior.

Australia takes Test series 2-0

MELBOURNE, Australia:

West Indies captain Jason Holder top-scored with a fighting 68 and Denesh Ramdin made a determined 59 as they added 100 for the sixth wicket in the second innings of the second Test match against Australia at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Tuesday.

West Indies lost by 177 runs as Australia took a 2-0 lead in the three-match series. "We must give credit to the way the guys fought with the bat, especially Darren Bravo (81) and Carlos Brathwaite (59) in the first innings and Denesh Ramdin in the second innings," Holder said.

"It's disappointing to lose, but I thought we showed a lot of improvement from the first Test match," he added.

West Indies captain
Jason Holder

Scores: Australia 551-3 declared and 179-3 declared. West Indies 271 and 282.

PENN RELAYS 2016

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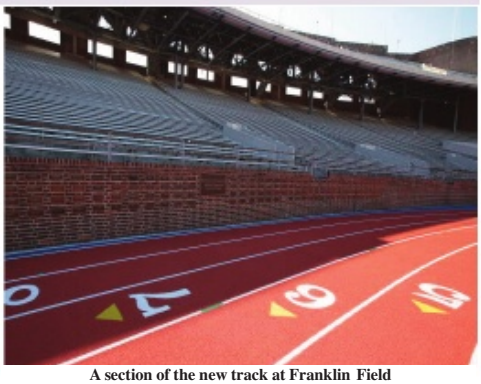
New Track Unveiled at Franklin Field

PHILADELPHIA:

The University of Pennsylvania and the Penn Relays unveiled a new-look track at Franklin Field on October 8, giving the media and fans a chance to see the new surface which will be home to the annual Penn Relay Carnival.

In the works since 2008, the project to renovate and resurface Franklin Field's track began in May, and was completed in the middle of September.

At a cost of nearly $3 million, generous contributions from Elliot (C'72, WG'75) and Gail (CW'73, WG'75) Rodgers and their family, the Friends of the Penn Relays, Penn's track and field alumni, and many other donors allowed venerable Franklin Field to shine bright with a brand-new track, elite-level jumping lanes, and a beautiful plaza for fans and athletes to gather.



A section of the new track at Franklin Field

Changes to the track include: Moving of the steeplechase pit to the NW corner (Turn 1) inside of track; previously NE corner (Turn 4) outside of track

Creation of a nine-lane track, with the moving of the steeple pit allowing six lanes outside the inner three lanes

NCAA-certified stripping plan that allows for better practice and competition venue during changes in weather conditions

Jump and pole vault runways improved for better meet management

A blue track surface color was chosen to accent jump areas and the track itself.

-Photo by Robert Benimoff

CHESS CHALLENGE:

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. plays a match with Ivan Hernandez, a sixth grader at M.S. 390, during the Bronx Borough President's Chess Challenge on Tuesday, December 15, 2015. The event was hosted by Chess in the Schools and sponsored by AT&T. The tournament, which took place in Veterans' Memorial Hall at the Bronx County Building, featured more than 250 students, grades 3-8, from Bronx public schools who are involved in Chess in the Schools programs.

FIFA ethics committee bans Blatter and Platini for eight years

ZURICH, Switzerland:

The adjudicatory chamber of FIFA's Ethics Committee, chaired by Hans-Joachim Eckert, has banned both Joseph Blatter, president of FIFA, and Michel Platini, vice-president and member of the executive committee of FIFA and president of UEFA, for eight years from all football-related activities (administrative, sports or any other) on a national and international level. The bans came into force immediately on Monday.

The proceedings against Blatter primarily related to a payment of CHF 2,000,000 transferred in February 2011 from FIFA to Platini. Blatter, in his position as president of FIFA, authorised the payment to Platini, which had no legal basis in the written agreement signed between both officials on 25 August 1999.

Neither in his written statement nor in his personal hearing was Blatter able to demonstrate another legal basis for this payment. His assertion of an oral agreement was determined as not convincing and was rejected by the chamber.

ENTERTAINMENT

Vybz Kartel Turns 40 yrs

The incarcerated Jamaican entertainer Adidja Palmer "Vybz Kartel," celebrates his 40th birthday on January 7. Despite his imprisonment, Kartel continues to dominate the air waves and influencing the popular culture.

Kartel recently hit a historical landmark with the book he wrote with Michael Dawson, "Voice of the Jamaican Ghetto," which is among the top rated book in Caribbean and West Indian history on Amazon.com.

A few years ago a UK publication revealed that Vybz Kartel along with Bob Marley and Tupac Shakur, were among the most requested artistes on prisoners' playlists.

Kartel is now serving life imprisonment for the murder of Clive 'Lizard' William at his home in Havendale, a suburb north of Kingston, on 16 August 2011. He was sentenced on 3 April 2014 and will not be eligible for parole for 35 years.

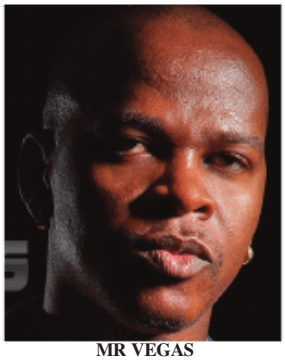
Mr Vegas' Dance-hall DABB Gone Viral

Mr Vegas is on a mission to bring back fun to dance-hall music. He's getting ready to drop a brand new single titled Dance-hall DABB. The song was inspired by the hot new dance craze that is currently sweeping the United States called the DABB.

"I know a lot of people might be wondering why I have recorded a song about an American dance move. American artistes have been doing videos that highlight Jamaican dance moves.

Look at the dance moves in Justin Bieber's video for his song called Sorry, all the dancers in that video are doing Jamaican dance moves. By doing Dancehall DABB I'm just reversing the roles." "The DABB dance is the biggest thing in the states right now; everyone is doing it including the sports stars and other celebrities. I want the whole Caribbean to join in the fun and do the DABB, that's why I have recorded this song," said Vegas.

Vegas has already shot the video for the song that was produced by him and Riva Brownie, the son of veteran music producer



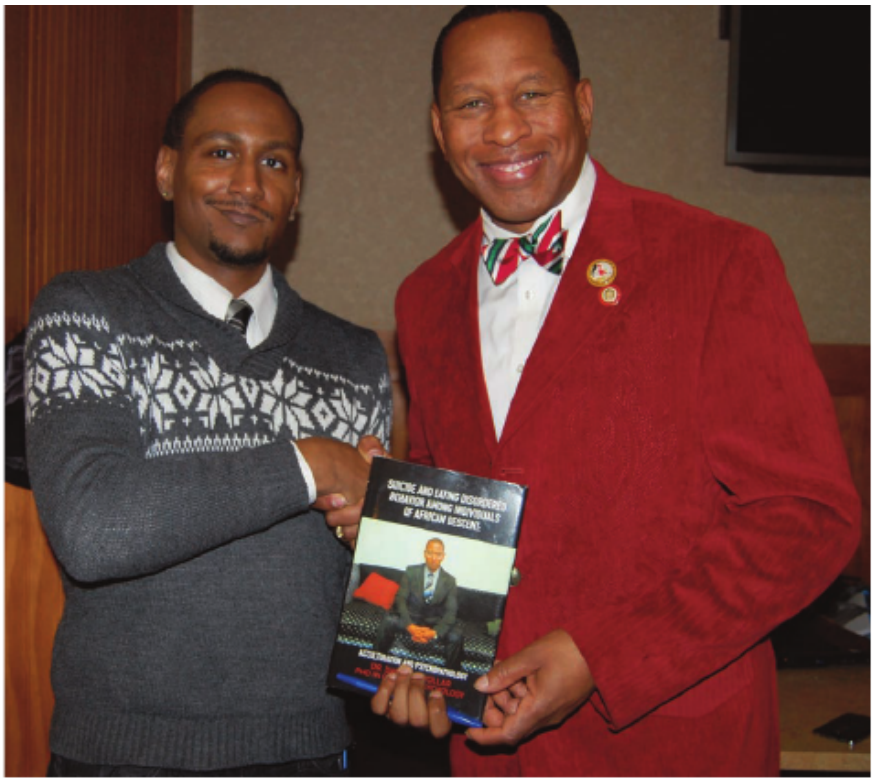
MR VEGAS

Cleveland 'Clevie' Brownie. "We recently shot the video in Canada. We recruited some of the best dancers from Canada and the West Indies for this project. It's a fun video, very exciting and full of energy." A clip from the video that was posted by Vegas on his Facebook Fan Page a few days ago has already received over three hundred thousand hits.

Dancehall DABB is scheduled to be released next week on the MV Music imprint and the RIVA Nile Productions label.

-Photo by Anthony Turner

Richie Stephens recently released a new single featuring Gentleman (l) on the yrushmusic label. The video will be officially released globally to the public on January 8, 2016 at 1pm.



SUICIDE AND EATING DISORDERED BEHAVIOR:

Clinical psychologist Dr. Daniel Leighton Hollar (l) presents a copy of his recently published book to Councilman Andy King at the recent dinner held at County Kitchen Dinner, Pelham in support of the Math Club 2016 competitions. The book, "Suicide and Eating Disordered Behavior Among Individuals of African Descent: Acculturation and Psychopathology," examines the relationship between culture and psychopathology to determine if psychological risk factors in Africans confirm the hypothesis that low ethnic identification attitudes (low African Self-fortification) interacts with acculturative stress to predict greater suicide cases among African American men.

Contact: Daniel Hollar dlhollar@gmail.com (850)491-0274

Reggae dub poet promotes food security

Jamaican reggae dub poet Ras Takura recently had a successful tour of several US states, promoting his Food War Album. His dub poetry music focuses attention on raising conscious awareness for food security and non-genetically modified organisms (GMO) seeds to help produce sustainable agro-business using non-GMO.

A spark of lightening can strike in the darkest corner and ignite the light that causes the world to see things from a different perspective. Such is the title track from this new album that influences the birth of a global movement for the cause of food security.

In his own word sounds Ras Takura says, "is a food war mi a fight and mi must win." Agrochemical and agricultural biotechnology seed producer Monsanto, a multinational company headquartered in Creve Coeur, Greater St. Louis, Missouri will be put on trial for crimes against humanity.

The tour started with an invitation from the March Against Monsanto and GMO seeds companies. Ras-Takura was invited to perform and speak about the Seeds fi Seeds Exchange at this event, which was held at Tomkins Square Park in New York City on May 23, 2015.

He also participated in World Food Day held in October 2015 at the Nation's Capital Monument in Washington, DC. This Dub Poet's appearance at the New York City (NYC) Park planted the seed of what has grown to become the Ras Takura Food War Album USA

RAS TAKURA
Jamaican Reggae Dub Poet

Summer Promo Tour 2015, which extended beyond the summer months. After performing at the Tomkins Square Park in NYC, Ras Takura moved on to other performances at various venues and institutions in other states and in some places he had many repeat appearances. He toured in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Jersey, Virginia, New Hampshire, Washington DC, California, Colorado and Arizona.

-rastakura@yahoo.com or 876-573-1851
www.facebook.com/RasTakura-Food-War.

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ACHIEVEMENTS

Jamaican Rhodes Scholar Tops The Class At Oxford

by Dave Rodney

Kamille Adair Morgan, 26, has a relentless passion for life, for family, and for dazzling academic accomplishments. She is Jamaica's Rhodes Scholar for 2012, and the St. Andrew native recently topped her class in her masters program in Law at the University of Oxford, winning the Winter Williams Prize for having attained the highest mark in International Economic Law.

Adair Morgan has completed both her Bachelor of Civil Law and her Master of Philosophy in Law at Oxford with distinctions, and she currently lives in Oxford where she is working towards her Doctor of Philosophy degree in Law.

Kamille is no stranger to success. She was the Jamaica Scholar (Girls) for 2006 from Ardenne High School where she served as head girl, and that scholarship took her to the University of the West Indies Faculty of Law from where she graduated with first class honours. Later, at Norman Manley Law School in 2011, she graduated top of class and as valedictorian. In between the rigors of her demanding studies, Kamille has managed to juggle a vibrant family life. She got married to Jamaican attorney-at-law Yushaine Morgan, and seven months ago she gave birth to her first child, a son, who she dutifully adores. Kamille is now in Jamaica for the Christmas holidays and I caught up with her to get a glimpse of her fascinating world.

Kamille Adair Morgan, 26

Dave Rodney: Kamille, where in Jamaica were you born?

Kamille Adair Morgan: I was born at the UHWI in St. Andrew, Jamaica

DR: What was your first school?

KM: I attended Mavisville Preparatory School. I credit a lot of what I've accomplished to the solid foundation I received there. From that stage my potential was identified and encouraged. I did everything from Track and Field, to Debating, to Netball, to Brownies. I also served as Head Girl in my final year at Mavisville.

DR: Tell me about the Ardenne years, what subjects did you study at sixth form?

KM: Anyone who knows me also knows that I am quite spirited in my love for and support of Ardenne. Attending Ardenne was sort of a family tradition. Four of my cousins and my older sister attended before me, and my younger sister after me. I value greatly the balance I was able to achieve at Ardenne because of the high standard of academic excellence coupled with a varied co-curricular programme that every student was encouraged to take full advantage of.

In sixth form I did Communication Studies, History, Biology, Accounting and Spanish.

DR: Was there something in particular that drove you to the field of law?

KM: My mother would always say I'd be a lawyer because I spoke and argued too much. But what really drove me to law was a realisation I came to while working on my project on women enfranchisement in Afghanistan for my Communication Studies Internal Assessment in my first year of sixth form at Ardenne. That realisation was that Law is not just about outspeaking or out-witting your opponent, but that it is a tool for correcting social inequalities and, more generally, solving problems. I was excited to become involved with that.

DR: What was the Cave Hill experience like for you, perhaps living away from home for the first time?

KM: It was my first time living away from home, and although it was challenging, it is an experience I would not trade for anything. It was through that experience that I came to understand my identity as a Caribbean national and a world citizen. Beyond that, it was a period of immense self-growth and self-actualisation. I tried my hand at so many things I thought I'd never do, like play football (not very well) for example.

DR: At Oxford, you first pursued the Bachelor of Civil Law, one of the most highly regarded masters programs in Law in the world. How challenging and how rewarding was that course for you?

KM: The BCL was undoubtedly my most challenging academic pursuit. It had less to do with the volume of work I had to cover in the 9-month span of the course, and more with the extremely high level of thought and analysis required to successfully complete it. It was the first course in Law I did where I found myself more in thought than I was reading and assimilating the material I read. There were moments of self-doubt and there were tears, but there were also moments of affirmation and encouragement. I am certainly a better lawyer, a better thinker, having pursued that course. Completing the BCL with Distinction, and being awarded the Winter Williams Prize for the best performance in International Economic Law, was certainly icing on the cake.

DR: You then went on to complete a Master of Philosophy in Law, with distinction, in a current and global hot-button issue- the use of force, self-defense and attacks by non-state/ terrorist actors. What triggered your interest in this area?

KM: My interest in this area was sparked when I participated in the Phillip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition in 2011 as a part of the team representing the Norman Manley Law School and Jamaica. I had the responsibility of arguing part of a fictional case before the International Court of Justice on those very issues. I've been enraptured by that area of Public International Law ever since. The fact that it is a real and active issue all across the globe has definitely contributed to maintaining my interest.

DR: Are you continuing your work in this fascinating and topical field?

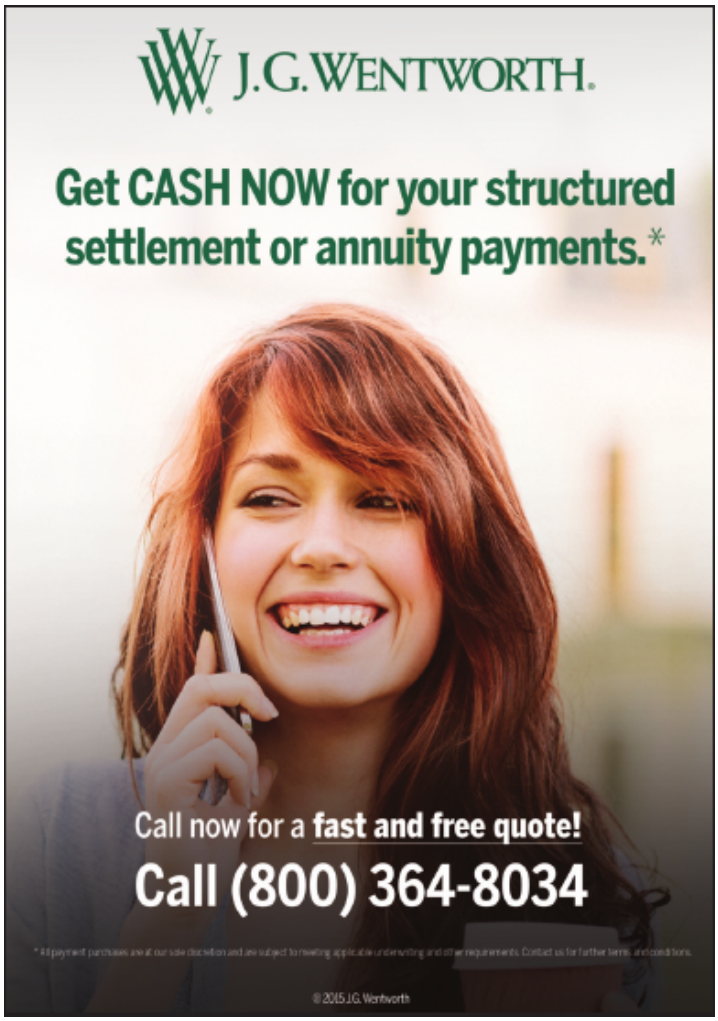
KM: I am currently working toward enlarging my MPhil thesis for my doctoral studies, yes.

DR: To what do you attribute your dazzling academic successes?

KM: I am confident that all I have been able to achieve I owe to God. My faith has undoubtedly played the greatest part in my success; pursuing the highest standard in my faith has brought with it excellence in other areas of life. My successes are also a product of the investments that so many others have made in me. I have parents who encouraged and sacrificed and laboured alongside me, but who also disciplined and set boundaries where necessary. I have benefited from the instruction and counsel of so many excellent teachers throughout my education. I have also taken time to accept myself for who I am; learning to minimise my weaknesses and maximise my strengths. Importantly, I have always tried to make excellence my hallmark, to approach every task I set my hand to with tenacity and diligence and to never do less than I am able to do.

DR: You are always top of class wherever you go with apparent ease. Have there ever been areas of serious challenge for you?

KM: Perhaps a run through of my CV would give the impression of ease, but it is only a reflection of the end result. I've certainly found transitioning between each stage of my studies to be somewhat of a challenge. I believe,



People in Photos

Bronx councilman Andy King (4th l) presents president of the Math Club, Jeffery Blake (3rd l) a check of $300 towards the Club's 2016 competition which is scheduled to start January 16 in the Bronx as other members of the club look on.

Bronx 47th Precinct feted Seniors

Deputy Inspector Ruel R. Stephenson of the 47th Precinct, Bronx and other members of the NYPD staff hosted a luncheon for seniors in the community on December 19 at the Bronx Bethany Church on 971 E 227th Street. The event was supported by the 47th Precinct Community Council and several businesses in the community.

Deputy Inspector Ruel R. Stephenson (4th l) talks with business leaders and sponsors (l-r) Samuel Vassel, Jack Graham and Keith Elijah Thompson.

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NYPD Officer David Belle and Deputy Inspector Ruel R. Stephenson present a Samsung 32" TV set to a lucky senior at the luncheon.

Members of the 47th Precinct, Bronx/NYPD officers rap with Comedian Spider and Gillian Mullings of the Hudson Financial group.

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NEW JERSEY FOCUS

Despite progress, violent surge at year's end

PATERSON NJ, which had been quieter than in recent years on the violent crime front through most of 2015, turned particularly violent going into the last days of December.

Two young men were fatally shot at an after-hours party in a normally peaceful industrial neighborhood near the Hawthorne border, and then, Monday night, a 27 year-old city woman was killed after a gunman walked into a bar on North Seventh Street and started shooting.

As Joe Malinconico of the Paterson Press reported, the last four months of 2015 saw a surge of violence, including eight homicides, 37 shootings and 43 people wounded, crimes that happened at rates just about twice as high as those committed during the first eight months of the year. Overall, the city had 18 homicides in 2015, down from 26 in 2014.

"We're looking at shootings being down 15 percent," said Police Director Jerry Speziale.

"That's better than what other cities are doing." Indeed, both Jersey City and Newark had increases in homicides this year, according to news reports.

Speziale, the former Passaic County sheriff who has been credited with making a difference in helping to bring down crime rates since taking on the job as police director, said that he wasn't satisfied with the 15 percent drop and that the department would be "looking to do more."

Those hoverboards!

By David Warren, Contributing Editor
<fatforward@gmail.com>

Over the last week, social media feeds have been filled with hoverboard photos and videos of crashes into Christmas trees, people, furniture and the ground, prompting one laughing emotion after another in response.

The injuries related to the two-wheeled balance boards aren't funny at all, however. Many have required trips to the emergency room.

On Christmas Day alone, The Valley Hospital in Ridgewood NJ saw 14 patients in the ER with hoverboard-related injuries. Since then, there have been "a handful" more, according to a representative.

"There have been numerous wrist injuries occurring from falls," emergency room doctor Bruce Felsenstein wrote in an email. "In fact our on-call orthopedist at Valley Hospital was kept quite busy attending to wrist injuries from accidents incurred from

hoverboards received as Christmas presents, some of which had to be surgically repaired."

Felsenstein saw his first hoverboard injury a couple of months ago when a child riding in his house ran into the carpet and was thrown forward, hitting his head on a wall.

He said since then, there have been injuries to children and adults from falling and striking objects. Anyone riding a hover-board should wear a helmet, wrist guards

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Obituary

Kenton 'Geico' Hewitt

was born on June 26th 1959 in Kingston, Jamaica and departed this world on Dec 13th 2015 in Paterson NJ. Kenton was a founding member of the "Donkey Corner" a famous New Jersey's hotspot In Paterson NJ. Kenton was one of the original donkeys. The proprietor of the establishment, Mr. Cavin Lebert stated "Kenton was a very kind hearted person he would give and do anything for people." This is the 2nd donkey who has passed on since the opening of the establishment. 2 years ago we lost Filbert "Munchin" Lewin. Hewitt was a master plumber and a music lover as well as a connoisseur of white rum.

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What's more, as your credit card balances increase, it can also cause problems for your budget – you end up juggling bills, choosing between expenses, and putting off important purchases. Luckily, there's a way you can find the solution that works for your unique financial situation – and even better, it won't cost a thing to get the information you need.

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Get Out of Debt Faster
As a result of those lower interest rates – more of your monthly payments go toward your debt instead of adding more interest – which means you can get out of debt faster. Every financial situation is different, but most people see their total monthly debt payments reduced by up to 30 to 50 percent as they get out of debt faster. The program is usually completed in around 40-60 payments, so you can be debt-free in just a few years instead of taking decades to eliminate everything you owe.

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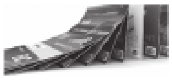
Build a Positive Credit History
Additionally, consolidating debt through a certified credit counseling service may help save your credit score from additional damage. You stop future penalties and prevent further damage from missed payments and overdrawn credit lines. Even better, as you work your way through the program,



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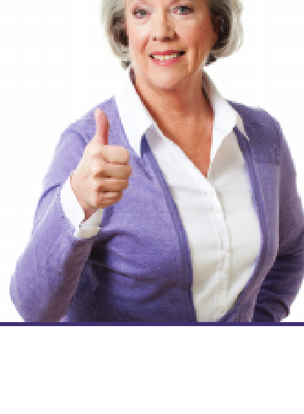

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But even better news is that recently approved Medicare coverage means that most seniors with lower back pain can get the amazing Verta Loc – and much-needed relief – at little or no cost.

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To get your Verta Loc please find your time zone on this map and begin calling at the time indicated.

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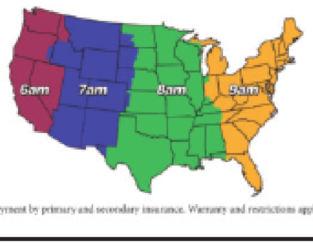

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BEAUTY CARE

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Three Methods: Moisturizing Your Curls Protecting Your Hair in the Pool After swimming:

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2. Apply coconut oil. Coconut oil protects the hair seals the hair cuticles, overall it moisturizes your whole head. Did you know coconut oil is the only oil that starts off as a solid and melts by your body temperature?

3 Apply your favorite conditioner. Use Conditioners that are for dry, damaged, curly hair. Some great curly hair brands are 'Curls unleashed' or 'Shea moisture'. Make sure you coat your whole scalp and roots with a good amount of conditioner. We really want to protect our delicate strands!

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TAX GUIDE

Affordable Care and Taxes

When President Obama signed into law new healthcare reform in March 2010, he wasn't solely overhauling America's healthcare landscape as we knew it, but also our tax system.

The Affordable Care Act created a variety of tax credits and penalties for both indi- viduals and business owners that you must pay special attention to while filing your income taxes.

The healthcare act includes several tax law changes that began impacting the tax system for 2013 federal income tax returns due April 15, 2014.

According to the National Association of Tax Professionals, here are the main takeaways from the tax adjustments caused by the Affordable Care Act:

• Employees report the total amount paid by them and their employer for health insurance premiums, flexible spending beyond payroll deductions and other premi- ums. This information must be reported on returns.

• For itemized deductions, the threshold for deducting medical expenses increases to 10 percent of your adjusted gross income.

• A 3.8 percent tax on net investment income is now applied to taxpayers at higher income levels based on filing status.

THE MARKETPLACE & YOUR RETURN

If you don't have health insurance for a total of three or more months in 2014, you may pay a penalty that is reported and calculated on your tax return, according to the NATP.

Fortunately, secur- ing health insurance post-re- form is an easy process that can be accompanied by prepremium tax credits to help you better afford your monthly bill.

Eligibility and the amount of tax credits are based on the cost of marketplace premiums and your household size and income. Your online mar-

ketplace — either through your state or the federal ver- sion - spells this information out for you during the appli- cation process.

Even if you do not take advantage of the advanced premium tax credit, you can © FOTOLIA still claim the refundable credit on your 2014 tax return, according to the NATP.

Cost- sharing subsidies also may be available for other health care expenses, so be sure to ask your tax professional for all available options.

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Dating Scene Is Frustrating for Strong Young Woman

Dear Divine Diva:

I am a young woman hoping to find "The One." But I have come to realize that I'm not the normal female. I don't get manicures or go shopping. (I hate shopping!) When I meet a guy, he likes that I'm "me," but if we get serious, then I'm either "too independent," "too outspoken" or "not girly enough."

I don't want to change myself or pretend to be someone I'm not. One minute they like that I'm independent and can fend for myself; the next they don't like that I don't depend on them to pay bills, etc.

Why is it always a double standard? Men like strong women until they are with one. Then they can't handle it. Maybe I'm too much for the men where I live. Is it possible for me to find someone?

-- Independent Female, Charleston Sc

Dear Independent Female:

Welcome to the wonderful world of dating. While some may think of dating as a popularity contest, it's really more like sifting for a gold nugget. It takes a lot of people years to strike gold -- and it's the same with dating. Is it possible to find someone? Absolutely! But it takes time, stamina and a sense of humor to survive the process.

- Always Divine Diva

Please send your questions and comments to:
divinestreethype@gmail.com

ADVICE COLUMN

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divinestreethype@gmail.com

Reformed Party Girl Is Ready to Settle Down

Dear Divine Diva:

For years I dated guys who I knew wanted a committed relationship, while I just wanted to have fun. I enjoyed being single and never saw myself getting married. My mom was married three times to men who abused her. It made the idea of marriage terrifying to me.

Through counseling, I have found healing from my past. I regret the damage I caused by leading guys on. Now that I want to be married, my life feels empty. While I used to enjoy my independence, I now want to share my experiences with someone.

Because of the counseling I have had, I know what I shouldn't settle for, but the only guys asking me out are sleazy. I feel like in some ways life was easier when I wanted to stay single. How do I find a healthy balance so I won't go back to my old ways or end up settling out of desperation?

-- Healed But Confused

Dear Healed But Confused:

One way would be to continue the counseling. While you may want to be married now, desperation and neediness are not traits that attract worthwhile men.

You need to be prepared to take some time and find a balance in your life while you're looking for Mr. Right. Explore your own interests, make friends with members of both sexes, do some volunteering if you have the time. If you do, the chances of your meeting the right kind of man will improve because you will have more to offer.—Always Divine Diva

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Employment Lawyer Named Federal Magistrate in Ct.

Courtesy of Christian Nolan, Connecticut Law Tribune

A well-known Connecticut employment lawyer has been chosen to become a magistrate judge in U.S. District Court in Connecticut.

Robert A. Richardson, a partner in the New Haven law firm of Garrison, Levin-Epstein, Richardson, Fitzgerald & Pirrotti, will work at the federal courthouse in Hartford and fill the magistrate judge vacancy created by the recent retirement of Thomas P. Smith. Richardson has worked his entire career at the New Haven employment law firm, dating back to the summers of 1990 and 1991 when he was an intern.

"As you can imagine, it is sort of bittersweet for the law firm," said Joseph Garrison, another name partner in the firm. "It's excellent for Rob, of course. It's a very nice honor for him and well deserved. We think he's going to do a wonderful job as a magistrate judge. It's also hard to replace somebody of that caliber."

Garrison said Richardson may be best known for his expertise in non-compete agreements. He said Richardson has spoken at national conferences on the topic as well as at gatherings of the Connecticut Bar Association. Garrison said Richardson took nine non-compete disputes to trial and is fairly certain he won them all. "He was the person people would consult with and he would draw up the contract provisions for them," said Garrison.

Robert Richardson

Garrison said one of the qualities that will make Richardson a successful magistrate judge is that he has "a lot of empathy for people." Garrison also said Richardson's knowledge of the law ensures that he's well-prepared for cases.

The annual salary for the position is $185,012, and the term is for eight years. Duties include presiding over preliminary proceedings in criminal cases, conducting settlement conferences in civil cases, trial and disposition of misdemeanor cases, conducting pretrial matters and evidentiary proceedings on referral from a district judge, and handling civil cases with the consent of litigants.

Richardson is the second magistrate judge named to the Connecticut U.S. District Court bench this year. In March, former assistant federal defender Sarah Merriam replaced Holly Fitzsimmons, who retired.

Richardson grew up in Bethany and now lives in New Haven. He earned his undergraduate degree from Penn State University in 1988 and then went to law school at Ohio State. From there, he began working at Garrison's firm when it was known as Garrison, Silbert & Arterton.

Over the years, Richardson has represented individuals and employees in employment and civil rights matters in state and federal courts, as well as in arbitration proceedings. Richardson recently served as co-chair of the CBA's Federal Judiciary Committee, and he previously served on the U.S. District Court's Federal Grievance Committee from 1996 to 2001.

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How to Eat Less Sugar

NUTRICARE

By

GLORIA BENT, MS, RD, CDN
Nutritionist

Questions & Comments: Gloria.Bent@gmail.com

Unfortunately, the sugar we love is also the culprit in a wide range of diseases, from cavities and diabetes to fatigue and obesity.

Reducing sugar's role in your life can only benefit you and your loved ones.

• **Set a sugar limit.** You may only think about sugar when you add it to your recipes or coffee, but you likely eat large amounts of it without even thinking about it. Make a commitment to consciously counting how many grams of sugar you eat on a daily basis, and limit your sugar to a healthy amount.

The World Health Organization recommends eating no more than 25 grams of sugar per day — less than what's found in a single soft drink.

Pace your sugar intake throughout the day by eating foods with a moderate amount of sugar, rather than one sugary food and a lot of sugarless food.

Less than 5g of sugar per 100g serving of food is a good, low-sugar product.

More than 15g of sugar per 100g serving of food is too high for healthy consumption.

If you are going to consume sugar, try to use healthy sugar alternatives like agave nectar, honey, coconut sugar, etc. Natural sugars (while still sugars) are much better for you.

• **Track your sugar.** If you don't want to give up on all sugar, make a weekly chart to keep track of how much sugar you're eating. Decide how much sugar you are allowed to eat each day, remembering that you should eat no more that 25 grams, maximum.

For instance, on Mondays you might need an extra kick in your morning coffee, so you can have 2 sugars in it. If you have have plans to go out with friends on Saturday, let yourself get dessert.

You can decide how restricting or not your graph is.

• **Replace refined sugars with natural ones.** The sugars in most processed food are bad for your health, but those found naturally in fruits in vegetables come packaged with other health benefits.

Replace your candy bar with nutrient-packed fruits like bananas and dates. Even when baking, you can replace sugar with fruits! Puree bananas, cooked apples, or cooked butternut squash to sweeten your cakes, ice creams, or smoothies.

Many fruits can be baked to make them dessert like. For example, you can bake an apple and then add cinnamon. A

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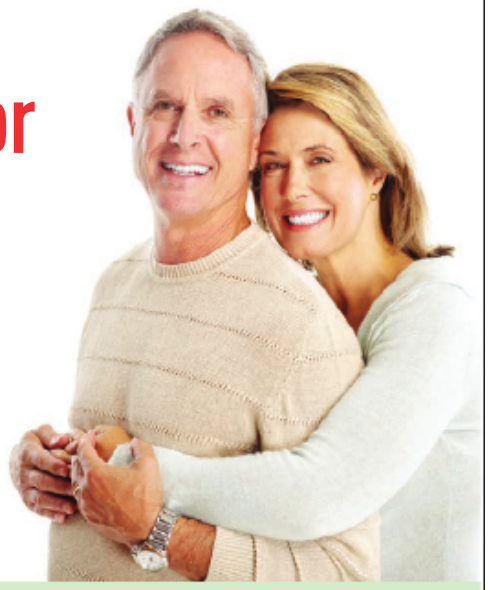

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